

Once again, just because the international governing body has done away with the requirement for Morse Code testing; does not mean that the practise of requiring Amateur Radio operators in the United States to show proficiency in Morse Code is an invalid practise.

The current requirement of being able to receive Morse Code characters at 5 WPM is obtainable by anyone who is dedicated to learning to perform the task. As an ARRL accredited Volunteer Examiner, I have never once been with an examining team who found the task of testing a burden.

In the new state of the world, it is a distinct possibility that as some point in the future, Amateur Radio operators may be called in as a last resort to provide emergency backup communications at times of national disaster or tragedy. Having the best and most thoroughly trained cadre is what is needed. While eliminating the Morse Code testing requirement may temporarily increase the number of Amateur Radio operators in the future, I do not believe that is a benefit. In my opinion, and I hope that it would also be the opinion of the Commission, that United States should stand out as a beacon; and demand that it's cadre of Amateur Radio operators continue to always be the best and most thoroughly trained group in the world.